



# Sarah Doucette

City Councillor  
Ward 13

## The Speed of our Roads

Dear friends and neighbours,

During the past year, we have seen a dramatic increase throughout the city in requests for lowered speed limits on residential streets. It has come to the point where even the City is giving out signage encouraging drivers to slow down. Two important Motions were passed at City Council this year which will play a significant role going forward. First, a speed limit reduction to 30 km/h no longer requires the installation of traffic calming measures. As traffic calming cannot be accommodated on all streets, this greatly opens up the number of streets where their speed limits can be lowered. Second, this spring the Toronto East York Community Council voted to make all residential streets 30 km/h, making all streets east of our Keele Street boundary the new lower limit.

In our Community Council area of Etobicoke York, currently a petition of local residents is needed before Transportation Services performs a traffic study to see if a speed reduction is warranted. At that point it can be approved or denied by our local Community Council. The entire process takes about one year, with the installation of signs taking place a couple of months beyond that.

To many residents, this is a long and arduous process that doesn't guarantee results. I have received a number of requests that Ward 13 follow the lead of our neighbours to the east, and set all residential street speed limits at 30 km/h. This blanket policy would create a consistency throughout our ward, create a natural flow from the downtown core, and most importantly improve the safety of our streets.

Making such a change will not be easy. It would be a costly change, and take up a great deal of staff time preparing for the switch. If we were to take this approach I would need residents firmly and vocally onside.

### What do you think?

Do you want to see all residential street speed limits in Ward 13 reduced to 30 km/h? Do you believe the current approach for traffic calming is working in our ward? Let me know! Please write a letter, email, or call in with your thoughts on this issue, so we can move forward on what approach we would like to take.



These signs have been going up across the City this fall.

### Ward Boundary Review

For the past year, the City has been reviewing the boundaries of our municipal wards to create greater equality among the number of residents in each ward. An independent body has come up with five recommendations. They can be seen at:

[www.drawthelines.ca](http://www.drawthelines.ca)

What are your thoughts? Should wards be larger or smaller? See the proposals and let me know so I can represent your views!

## What's New in Ward 13?

There is always something new happening in Ward 13. Here is a small list of features you might have noticed.

### 1. Ravinia Community Gardens

The new community garden at 290 Clendenan Avenue (the former lawn bowling site) has been installed, and had its first planting take place this fall.

### 2. High Park Splash Pad

Construction began this fall on the new High Park Splash Pad, which is being installed beside the wading pool, in the north-east corner of the park. Construction will resume in the spring, to allow for splashing to start this summer.

### 3. Extended Hours at the Jane / Dundas Library

The Jane / Dundas Library is now open six days a week from 9:00 am to 8:30 pm, Monday to Thursday, and 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Fridays and Saturdays.

### 4. Art at the Windermere / CN Underpass

"BlueGold", an art installation of contrasting arrays of LED lights was installed at the Windermere / CN Underpass. These arrays are networked, synchronizing transformations in hue, tone and intensity throughout the night.

### 5. Ping Pong in the Park

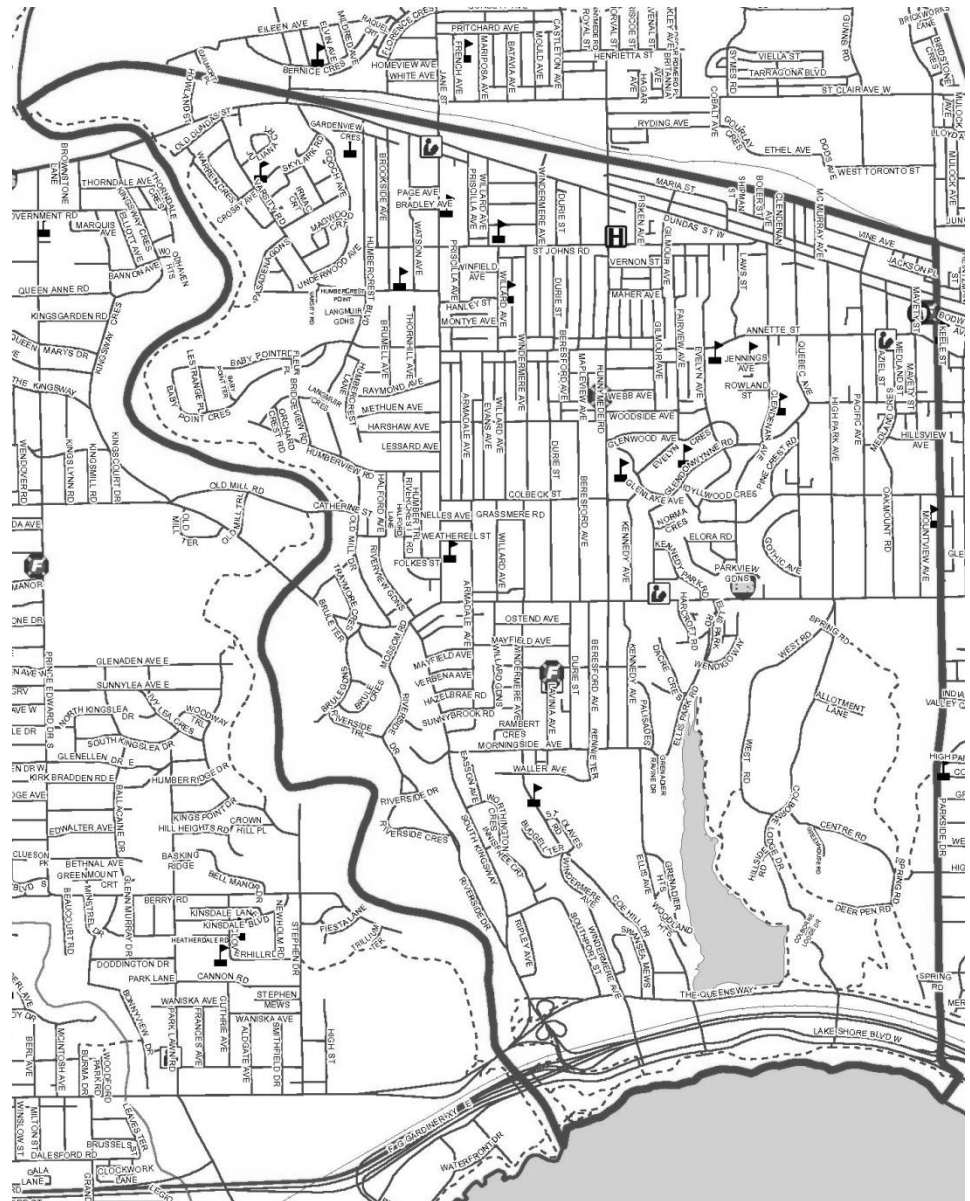
Two new outdoor ping pong tables were installed this summer in Lessard and Malta Park. Bring your paddles and a ball to join in the fun!

### 6. Armadale & Bloor Traffic Lights

Activated traffic lights for the intersection at Armadale and Bloor were approved at the November Community Council meeting. They will be installed in 2016.

### 7. Rennie Rink

The boards at the ice rink in Rennie Park have been replaced, and are now up to the latest safety standards. Public skating and hockey will be starting shortly.



### 8. High Park Avenue Sharrows

Cycling sharrows have been installed along High Park Avenue, connecting the Annette bike lane to Bloor Street and the park. The next set of sharrows along Ellis Park Road should be installed next year.

### 9. ReSet at Swansea Mews

Swansea Mews is taking part in a pilot project for the new "ReSet" initiative. Throughout the next year residents will work with Toronto Community Housing staff and myself to decide what improvements are necessary, with construction taking place in 2017.

### 10. Skating on Grenadier Pond

I am continuing to fight for legal skating to return to Grenadier Pond. After seeing the original report that included putting a Zamboni on the pond, I have asked City Staff to return to the November Parks Committee meeting with a more cost effective program to start this winter. I look forward to updating you soon!

## Saving Money, Saving our Environment

There are several programs available to assist you with saving money on your energy bills, while at the same time helping the environment by cutting back on your energy use. I have listed some of the programs below.

### **Canadian Mortgage Housing Corporation (CMCH)**

One of the services CMCH provides is information to help you understand green building and renovating practices. They have tips on saving both energy and water and can help make your home a healthier place. Please visit [www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca](http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca) and click on "Consumers" and then "Green Housing".

**Livegreen Toronto** is a great resource and more tips can be found at their website: [livegreentoronto.ca](http://livegreentoronto.ca).

### **Home Energy Loan Program (HELP)**

With this program low interest loans are available to qualifying homeowners who are interested in improving the energy and water efficiency of their home. Through HELP, the City will provide the funding required to complete the improvements and the homeowner will repay the City over time through installments on their property tax bill. For more information email: [homeenergyloan@toronto.ca](mailto:homeenergyloan@toronto.ca) or call 311.

### **Toronto Hydro Residential Programs**

Hydro offers a wide range of incentives to help customers save electricity and manage their costs. Please visit [torontohydro.com](http://torontohydro.com) and click the "Electricity Conservation" tab.

## Development Updates

For more information on these proposals and any new developments that arise, click "Developments" on my website: [www.ward13.ca](http://www.ward13.ca)

### **A. 2114 Bloor Street West (at Kennedy Park Road)**

The Working Group, City Staff, the applicant and my office came to a compromise on this application that has been approved by City Council. There are still some items left to wrap up, but the proposal includes rental housing, attractive architecture, and comes in at 8 storeys, reduced from 10. The next step is to settle at the OMB in January, 2016.

### **B. 2117 Bloor Street West (at Harcourt Road)**

Final details on this application for an 8 storey building are being worked out, and a final report is expected to go to City Council in early 2016. The applicants have been working very closely with residents since the beginning of the process, and we have all appreciated the collaborative effort.

### **C. 77 Quebec Avenue (Grenadier Square)**

The Ontario Municipal Board finally came out with their decision on this proposal this summer, and approved two 25 storey towers in the location of the current townhouse blocks, with townhouse units at the ground level of the buildings. The two existing 20 storey buildings will remain as-is. I moved motions to have City Staff at the OMB to support the residents' and City's position that the buildings are inappropriate for the neighbourhood. The OMB decision was very disappointing.

### **D. 2978 Dundas Street West (at Pacific Avenue)**

In September 2015, City Council approved a 7 storey (with partial 8<sup>th</sup> storey for amenity space access) rental building at this location. There were a number of size reductions from the previous proposal, and the applicant has also agreed to widen the sidewalk around the building. More streetscape improvements will be discussed during the Site Plan process.

### **E. 108 Vine Ave**

The application from The Sweet Potato to have a grocery store at 108 Vine St, with a retail floor space of 855 sq m, was approved at City Council in September, 2015. There was mixed feedback on this application, with some area residents in support, and some Vine Ave neighbours raising concerns about traffic impacts. We are now working together on traffic calming initiatives for the street.

### **F. 200 Keele Street**

There is a renewed pre-application proposal for this site, along the northern edge of Lithuania Park. A four storey condo building with rental townhouses at grade is proposed, and the owner is speaking with City Staff about how to proceed with their application.

### **G. 3803 Dundas St W (at Humber Hill)**

In July, my office held a Public Consultation so that residents could hear and ask questions of the proponent and City Planning staff regarding a new proposal for this property. The proposal has been dramatically changed,

and is now for four blocks of townhouses, which would be four storeys each, with a total of 100 units.

## Support for Tenants

Part of what makes Ward 13 so special is the mix of owners and tenants. Here is some information for tenants of the Ward. For more information you can call the tenant hotline at 416-921-9494, or our community legal aid clinic at 416-979-1446.

### Your Landlord's maintenance and repair responsibilities include:

- Keeping units and the building in a good state of repair, including cleaning and maintaining common areas such as hallways, elevators, the laundry room, and any snow areas.
- Fixing anything that breaks on its own or does not work properly, including any fixtures (such as appliances and windows).
- Keeping the building free of infestation by pests and vermin.
- If you have advised your landlord about an issue in writing (date the letter and keep a copy) and they do not act, call the Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB) at 416-645-8080.
- For additional help, contact the City's Municipal Licensing and Standards Division at 311

### Rent Increases:

- Rent increases can happen only once every 12 months after moving in.
- Your landlord must supply you with written notice 90 days in advance
- The Province sets the percentage amount for permitted rent increases. For 2015 it is 1.6%.
- If you live in a rent-geared-to-income (RGI) or subsidized housing, these rules do not apply.
- For an Above-Guideline Increase (AGI) your landlord must apply to the LTB for permission.
- Learn more at: [www.ltb.gov.on.ca](http://www.ltb.gov.on.ca)

### Other information:

- Smoking is prohibited in common areas, however tenants are allowed to smoke inside their units if there is no non-smoking clause in the tenant agreement.
- If your neighbours' smoking is infiltrating your living space, you can apply to the LTB for compensation for loss of reasonable enjoyment, after efforts are made to minimize the smoke.
- A landlord may request a deposit but it cannot be more than the amount of one rental period.

## Contact Information

## COUNCILLOR SARAH DOUCETTE

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416-392-4072

Visit my website and sign up for my bi-weekly newsletter at:  
**[www.ward13.ca](http://www.ward13.ca)**

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My office is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.  
You can also find me on Twitter **@doucetteward13** or on  
Facebook at **[www.facebook.com/councillordoucette](http://www.facebook.com/councillordoucette)**.

### ***Other Elected Officials:***

**MP Arif Virani:** arif.virani@parl.gc.ca

**MPP Cheri Di Novo:** 416-763-5630

**TDSB Trustee Robin Pilkey:** 416-395-8787

**TCDSB Trustee Barbara Poplawski:** 416-512-3410

**11 Division:** 416-808-1100

**Parking Enforcement:** 416-808-1618

**Toronto Hydro:** 416-542-8000

**Street Light Outages:** 416-542-3195

**Silver Circle (Seniors' Services):** 416-653-3535

**Animal Services:** 416-338-PAWS(7297)

**Tax and Water Bills:** 416-338-4829

**TTC Customer Service:** 416-393-3030

**Building Permit Status:** [www.toronto.ca/building](http://www.toronto.ca/building) - click on the Building Application Status link.

**Trees on Hydro wires:** 416-542-8000, choose option 1 and speak to a dispatcher

**Blocked driveways:** Call Toronto Police Services at 416-808-2222 and tell the dispatcher that you have a "driveway obstruction".